

Learning Places Fall 2016

Library / Archive REPORT #1

Brooklyn Public Library

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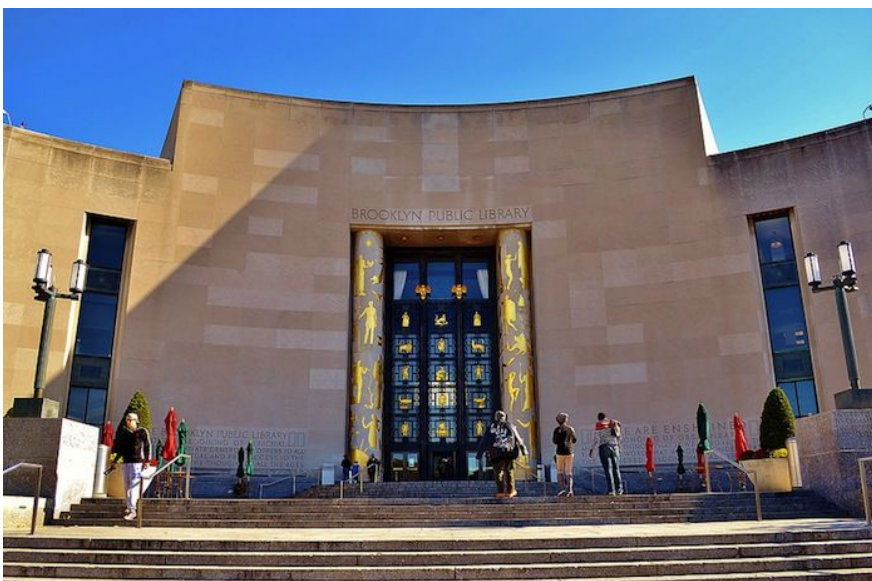
INTRODUCTION

The Brooklyn Public Library was an interesting meeting point in which the entire class partook in learning how to do archival research. I have never been to this area, nor too the library, and I was amazed at what it looked like when I arrived. Before arriving I had expected the library to look like any other old boring library. I expected a bland geometrical building with not much detail to it. Instead I find a Grand building that goes against the geometrical rule that is usually followed, and some beautiful art at the front entrance. It looked like a historical landmark, which I'm sure it is, with all the historical art and attention to detail. The neighborhood also looked pretty pristine, especially given that it sits across from a green luscious park.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

(include photographic documentation and visual notes—at least 2 photographs 1 sketch required)

What is the Genius Loci, or spirit, of this place?



The spirit of this particular place strikes me as old but modern, tranquil, and wise.

What kind of archive or library is this? What kinds of materials / sources does this place collect?

This library, or rather this archive, is mainly a collection of the history of Brooklyn. In this collection you can find items such as old newspaper clippings from the past, old maps of the area, sewer tunnel grids and etc. You could basically find almost anything about Brooklyn from both the past and present.

Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

There are a number of people who can use this old archival collection. People like home-owners who can find out what was originally on their property so that they know what they actually own and how much land then can extend to. People like historians who can do their research on Brooklyn then vs now. There are a number of uses for the archive that many people are glad they can easily find within the library.

Are there any special rules for using or accessing material?

When it comes to this articles and etc., since they are very old it also means they are very fragile. Therefore you must for ask the librarian to take out whatever resources you need and be very careful with how they are handled. For example the maps, since they are huge and the paper is very old, it is advised to be fary careful with how the atlas is maneuvered



SOURCE ANALYSIS

(2 citations of sources found and a brief analysis of each source—photos optional)

CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #1 (consult this [website](#) for help with citations)

Gallahue, P. (2002, October 7). Developer: 9th Street building is not a hotel. *The Brooklyn Papers*, p. 2.

1. What is this source and what is its purpose?

This news article talks about the development of a Condominium building that was mistaken for a hotel. The developer stated that the sign on the front only said hotel because it was “occupying ad space.”

2. Who created it and who was it created for?

This article was written by Patrick Gallahue to let the activists and people of Carroll Gardens and the Gowanus know that the development will not be a hotel, but instead a residential building.

3. What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?

This newspaper tells us about the abuse of power that is being used by the government and developers. This ties into gentrification, marketing, and zoning of the Gowanus.

4. How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?

We can find out how zoning affects the community and how marketing affects the community with the use of the question, “How do Developers Market areas they zoned to the community so that it does not cause an uproar?”

CITATION for ARCHIVAL SOURCE #2 (consult this [website](#) for help with citations)

U. (1972, September 17). Slate Talk On Dredging Of Gowanus. *Unknown*, p. B60.1.

1. What is this source and what is its purpose?

The source of this article is unknown, and the purpose of the article is to inform the people of the future plans to dredge the Gowanus Canal.

2. Who created it and who was it created for?

The author of this article is unknown, but it was created for the neighborhood community to give them a sense of hope that the Gowanus will return to its former glory.

3. What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?

This tells us about how plans of cleaning the canal came to be and how long it took to come to fruition. This article ties into the theme of environmental protection and the subtopic of the canal being cleaned after so many years.

4. How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?

This could be integrated into the research of someone who is trying to find out why it took so long for the cleaning of the canal to come to be with the question, "Why did it take so long for the community board to finally decide to clean the canal? And how did they plan on "dredging" the canal then vs now?"

GENERAL NOTES:

- The number of uses of a map other than to get from one place to another.
- The different places and buildings that used to be in certain areas of the neighborhood.
- The amount of newspaper clippings that date back to the 1800's
- The amount of architectural data that exists in the archive.

- The fact that librarians in the past had to past new structures into the atlas instead of reprinting to save cost.

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What other collections are in the Library?
2. How are the changes back then any different to the changes to the gowanus now?
3. How is the zoning in the past different than the zoning being done now?